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THE PURDUE UNIVERSITY CALUMET
CHRONICLE

Week of January 17, 2012 Vol. 31, Issue 18

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University healthcare policy rate increases for smokers

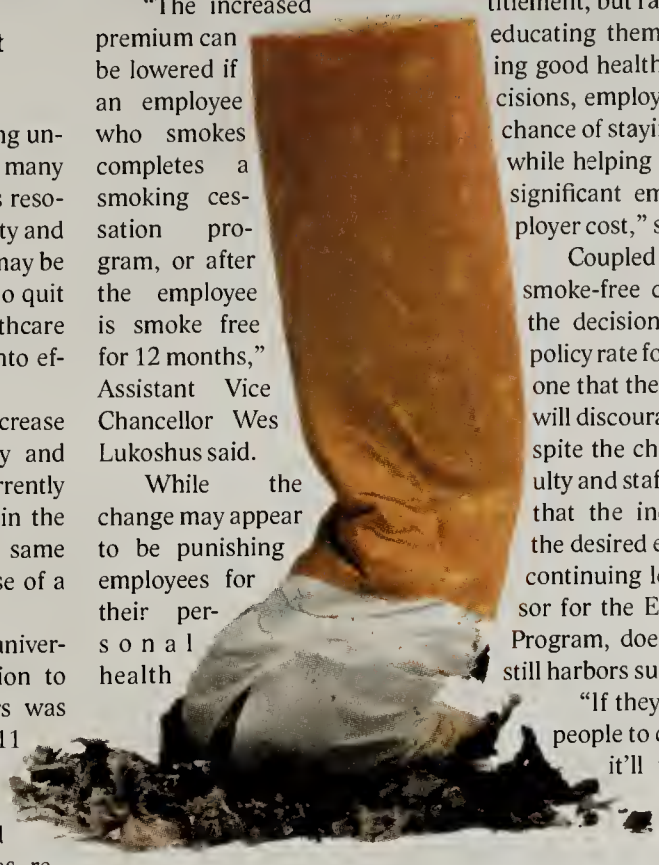
Melissa Pilipow
Chronicle Correspondent

The vow to quit smoking undoubtedly ranked high on many people's lists of New Year's resolutions for 2012. PUC faculty and staff members that smoke may be more motivated than ever to quit after a new university healthcare policy rate increase went into effect on Jan. 1.

The premium rate increase of $250 applies to faculty and staff members that currently use or have used tobacco in the past twelve months. The same increase applies to a spouse of a PUC employee.

Recommended by a university committee, the decision to raise the rate for smokers was announced during the 2011 fall semester. CIGNA, the university's healthcare provider, covers a myriad of services for all employees, regardless of whether they are affected by the rate increase.

However, simply because an employee smokes now does not mean that they cannot escape the rate increase in the future.



"The increased premium can be lowered if an employee who smokes completes a smoking cessation program, or after the employee is smoke free for 12 months," Assistant Vice Chancellor Wes Lukoshus said.

While the change may appear to be punishing employees for their personal health choices, Lukoshus hopes that both students and employees can see the benefits to being smoke-free.

"Students should know that employee health care is not an entitlement, but rather a benefit. By educating themselves and making good health and lifestyle decisions, employees have a better chance of staying healthy longer while helping slow the rise of a significant employee and employer cost," said Lukoshus.

Coupled with becoming a smoke-free campus in 2009, the decision to increase the policy rate for tobacco users is one that the university hopes will discourage smoking. Despite the changes, some faculty and staff members doubt that the increase will have the desired effects. Beth Lair, continuing lecturer and advisor for the English Language Program, does not smoke and still harbors such doubt.

"If they are trying to get people to quit, I don't think it'll work," Lair admitted.

Although the increase does not directly affect students right now, rising costs in health care foreshadow that raised premiums

See Healthcare page 4

Microsoft prices rise in campus bookstore

Jessica Gerlich
Entertainment Editor

A trip to the campus bookstore can put a dent in the wallet of anyone who steps inside. Over winter break, another product's price tag was increased, but this hike had nothing to do with decisions made by the bookstore. The prices of Microsoft programs in the bookstore have gone up.

The Purdue University system's license with Microsoft is set to run out in June 2012, according to an email sent to all students by Joe Morales, director of technological infrastructure services.

For Windows, Office Professional Plus 2010 Select now costs $89.45, and Windows 7 Ultimate Upgrade Select costs $100.93. Office 2011 Select for Macintosh costs $78.90.

Frank Cervone, vice chancellor of information services, assured that though the products are more expensive and have "Select" attached to their names, they are just the upgraded versions of the Windows 7 and Microsoft Office programs previously offered in the bookstore.

The differences are in the cost and some terms of the license.

According to Cervone, the length and cost of the agreement are still unknown because negotiations between the Purdue system and Microsoft are still in progress. It is possible the terms may change before the contract is signed. He guarantees that the new contract will be more expensive than the last.

"These things just don't get cheaper," Cervone said.

Ken Johnston, vice chancellor of administrative services, said, "Sometimes we get more power for the same cost, though; they are always in-

See Microsoft page 4

Old and new plans on chancellor's menu

Andrea Drac
Staff Writer

With a whole semester behind him, PUC Chancellor Thomas Keon says getting to know the university community was the best part of his first semester this past fall.

"There have been many activities and events that provided a wonderful opportunity to meet everyone," Keon said. "The students, faculty, and staff are very helpful and friendly."

Keon said his first semester was a learning experience, exploring the many different parts of the University.

Last semester, Keon had many plans he wanted to get underway. One of his ideas was to revise PUC's strategic plan by providing the PUC community with four goals (academic excellence, learning through engagement, inclusivity and community and business partnership) and have each department respond to him about how they can achieve them. Keon is still focusing on this plan

See Keon page 4

High tensions at Visclosky town hall meeting

Brandon Hayes
News Editor

What was meant to be a town hall forum to discuss key issues affecting Northwest Indiana residents instead took the form of a political debate for Congressman Pete Visclosky, involving a very vocal crowd.

Approximately 60 people attended the Jan. 10 forum that was repeatedly taken off topic as arguments broke out between audience members. Visclosky was interrupted over a dozen times as his hecklers blurted out complaints and took jabs at his political endorsements.

Visclosky informed the crowd of the initiatives he would like to work towards for Northwest Indiana. He recommended that we focus on rebuilding and modernizing our Northwest Indiana's infrastructure, citing the Cline Avenue and Nine Span bridges in Hammond as being just two of the 4,091 bridges in Indiana that have been labeled deficient or obsolete.

Visclosky noted that despite the recent creation of 200,000 jobs throughout the U.S., we would have to create at least 208,000 every month until the year 2024 in order to reach the employment levels of 2007.

"We currently have 13.1 million unemployed in the country. My first priority remains the creation of jobs, [as] we have a significant problem in that regard," Visclosky said.

When addressing the question of how to finance these projects given the current financial situation of this country, Visclosky said that it is time for everyone to begin to pay their fair share in taxes, relating to the fact that some police officers and firefighters pay more in federal income taxes than some Wall Street Executives.

Other issues that Visclosky discussed were reducing the national debt, ending the war in Afghanistan and improving funding for education in Northwest Indiana.

When it came time for the question and answer portion of the evening, Visclosky was asked when he would be resigning so that he could be tried for treason, while another question was in reference to finding funding for PUC's Computer Science program.

One audience member who repeatedly interrupted the congressman voiced her concerns about World War III and U.S. military drone attacks on American citizens. Others complained about high taxes, high mortgage rates and joblessness in the Region.

Members of the PUC Social Justice Club, who protested outside of Visclosky's Merrillville office on Dec. 23, attended the town hall forum. The activists are concerned about Visclosky's signing of the National Defense Authorization Act, which allows the military to detain anyone suspected of terrorism, including an American citizen, to be detained for an undisclosed amount of time, losing all civil liberties in the process.

Brandon Hayes
U.S. Representative Pete Visclosky holds a town hall public forum at PUC on Jan. 10.

PUC student and President of the Social Justice club Joel Novak said he was unhappy after his questions for Visclosky were not answered at the forum. Novak said he wanted Visclosky to defend his endorsement of the National Defense Act, but instead said Visclosky kept talking in circles.

"I think it's important that we demonstrate that congress can't just push through these kinds of shady bills and think no one is going to notice.

Jessie Martin
Student Body President

Welcome back PUC students! With the holidays in the rear-view mirror and a new year upon us, it's time to start another semester here at Purdue University Calumet. While I hope everyone enjoyed their break from classes, your Student Government Association (SGA) is ready to continue building on our past accomplishments, and hopefully push some of our initiatives past the finish line.

One initiative we will be working on collaboratively with the Faculty Senate and the Dean of Student's office is the Grief Absence Policy for Students (GAPS). This policy, which is already in affect at the West Lafayette campus, protects students in instances where a loved one passes away and a student needs to miss classes. While it is our belief that a student and faculty member usually are able to work out a solution in these types of instances, we also feel there should be a policy in place in instances where a solution cannot be found. Your Student Government Association is looking forward to crafting a GAPS Policy for students that fits Purdue University Calumet, something we hope could be in place by next fall semester.

The development of a Student Organization Council (SOC) will be a top priority this semester as well. In collaboration with Student Activities and other interested student organizations, your SGA will be looking to decide upon a structure and purpose of a SOC. Our goal is to provide a venue for student organizations and clubs on campus to provide programming ideas for Student Activities, act as a sounding board for concerns over policies and procedures that affect student organizations and clubs, and provide an opportunity *for them to earn funding to enhance their presence on campus. This is all* in an effort to give more resources to our students so we can grow campus life through these organizations and clubs.

Your SGA is also looking to continue progress on finalizing plans for a new Fitness and Recreation Center, in addition to recreation fields behind the University Village Phase II. We have made significant progress working with members of Athletics, Intramurals and the Fitness Center to plan a facility that everyone at Purdue University Calumet could be proud of. With an expanding Athletics program continuing in the coming years, this is not only a facility we want, but one we need as well if we aspire to become a more full-service university. Our work going forward will include more specifics about what's to be included in this facility while keeping in mind the costs of the facility as well.

Additional objectives this semester will be to finally complete work on our website so we can better communicate to the student body, establish a student discount card for students, have another successful elections process, in addition to listening to the voice of the student body and address their concerns to the best of our ability.

We have an ambitious agenda coming us this year, but we don't believe it is anywhere out of reach. As always, we encourage students who are interested in knowing more about these or other initiatives, or are interested in assisting us in these efforts, to get in touch with us. We are here to serve the student body, and we enjoy when you give us your thoughts and feedback on issues that concern you. You can either stop by our office in SULB 324F, send an email to pucstudent.gov@gmail.com, or find the page "Student Government Association - Purdue University Calumet" on Facebook.

Best,

~Jessie Martin | Student Body President

Paid for by the Student Government Association

What's Going On?
A look around PUC...

The Purdue Theatre Co. announcement
Auditions for the spring musical review "Big Bowl of Broadway" to take place on Thursday, Jan 26 and Friday, Jan 27 from 4:30pm to 6:30pm in YJean Chambers Hall, 3rd floor of SULB. Singers and actors should come prepared to sing a song or perform a monologue from any of the following musicals: My Fair Lady; West Side Story; All That Jazz ; Gigi ; Evita; Chicago ; Camelot; South Pacific; Sound of Music; Phantom of the Opera; Les Miserables; Miss Saigon; Mary Poppins and Man of LaMancha. Performances for the spring musical review are set for April 27, 28 and 29. Singers and actors will also be performing on Wednesday evenings at the Hotel and Tourism Management dinners on the Purdue Calumet campus. Contact Corya Channing, Director of the Purdue Theatre Co. 219-989-2627 or Trish Hales, Music Director at 989- 6272 with questions.

South Shore Clean Cities 2012 Annual Meeting
This annual meeting offers an opportunity for your organization to educate Northern Indiana Leaders, Agency Officials, and businesses about the benefits of your entity and support the US DOE's South Shore Clean Cities Program. SSCC and our members will spend time talking about alternative fuel and advanced vehicle and infrastructure projects, potential projects, and other successes achieved with support of government leaders and industry.
If you have any questions please contact our office or visit our website at www.southshorecleancities.org.
Thank you for your attention and response, and we look forward to seeing you are our event.

Where:
Avalon Manor
3550 U.S. Highway 30
Merrillville, IN 46307

When:
Tuesday February 14, 2012 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM CST

January Mayor's Night Out
HAMMOND, IN –Mayor Thomas M. McDermott, Jr. wants to remind all Hammond residents that the Mayor's Night Out date for the January event has been changed. The new information is:

Joseph Hess Elementary School - Cafeteria
3640 Orchard Drive
6 p.m. until 9 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 24
6th District

Mark your calendars and plan to attend this open public forum where Mayor makes himself and a representative from each city department available to discuss the issues of the day brought forth by the citizens. Call 853-6301 for more information.

Anyone interested in publicizing events, organizations, clubs or departments in "What's Going On?" must submit briefs the Monday before publication. The Chronicle does not guarantee placement of briefs submitted.

Please limit submissions to four sentences and include the first and last name of the contact person.

Briefs may be submitted via e-mail at chronicle@purduecal.edu or campus cc: mail - Chronicle or to the newsroom located in the Student Union and Library building, room 344H.

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ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS

On the move through life

Bill Koestner
Sports Editor

2011 was a year of transition for me in many ways. I quit my job that I had worked on and off since high school to devote my time to school and the Chronicle, and my older sister finished grad school and moved away. Given, she had been living at school for six years, but it's different now because her taking a job means I won't see her as often because she can no longer just come home any given weekend.

This transition looks to continue through 2012 and beyond. Many of my friends will graduate this year (some already have and are looking for long-term jobs), and though I will likely be going to school through Spring 2013, the end of college is on my radar for the first time ever.

After my New Year's jubilation died down, I was a little depressed that, even though I still have a lot of college left, the real world is beckoning. Then, I received a letter in the mail that put everything in perspective.

The end of college is on my radar for the first time ever.

It was from myself.

You see, my high school English teacher had my senior class write letters to ourselves four years in the future, which he would send out when we were ostensibly toward the end of our college careers. Mine came just after New Year's.

It was a pretty bad letter. It had references to things I found hilarious then but seem stupid to me now, and my views on then-current events had a youthful lack of perspective. It also showed how much I've improved as a writer over those four years, as the quality seemed very lacking to me now, even though I could tell I had tried to make it thoughtful and well-written when I wrote it.

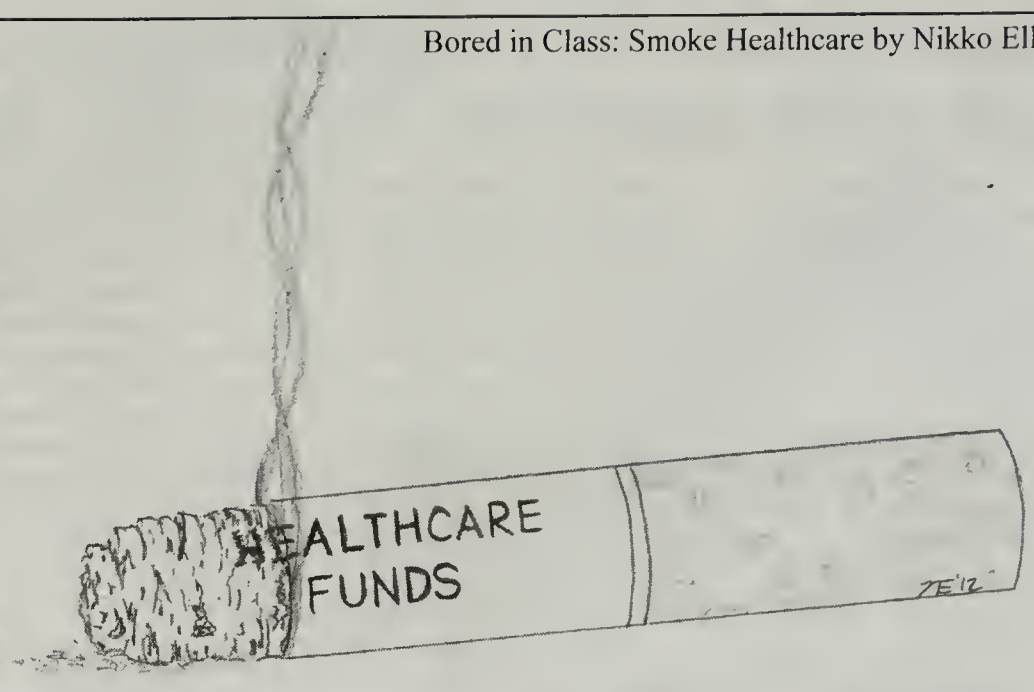
Reading the letter made me think back to my senior year, and I remember not wanting to graduate high school because it meant having to go to college and take on more responsibilities. That seems absurd to me, because today I can barely even think of myself in high school.

If there's a point to this story, it's that moving on with your life is a good thing, not bad. I don't think badly of my time in high school, but I would not want to still be there because I'm a different person now than I was then.

I'm still a little apprehensive to that fact that my entry to the real world is on the horizon because it will mean I will have to get a job and take on more responsibilities for myself, but I'd rather move on than stay where I am. The best is yet to come, I tell myself.

Readers can contact Bill at chronicle_sports_editor@yahoo.com or (219) 989-2547.

Bored in Class: Smoke Healthcare by Nikko Elliott



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Morgan Walker, Photo Editor
Michelle Nunez, Production Manager
Rey Perez, Business Manager

Obliterating the overbearing

The issue: visions of sugarplums have given way to the harsh reality of a new semester.
Our stance: "Hang in there, baby."

As the holiday cheer has turned into winter frost, students have to face the madness of overcrowded parking and overbearing workloads yet again. Those who are close to graduation are dancing uncomfortably in their classroom seating, while those who are not wonder when it will ever end. With as weighted as some syllabi have been, the anxiety is understandable.

Treading back into school after a month of hibernation in an icy (yet cozy) home is unpleasant at best, but excruciating and nightmare-inducing at its worst. The last thing most students want is to have to go back when it feels like only days since they just finished. No break is ever quite long enough, especially after frantically trying to meet with all your friends and family before it quickly comes to a close.

Still, while the stacks of printed papers and barrage of assignments may seem daunting, the semester does not have to be a hornet's nest of nasty grades and reluctantly-filled classrooms. After all, there are a fresh plethora of student activities to participate in and, both in the process and in classes, new friends to be made.

A particular class might not be the most interesting a student has ever had, but it might be one of the most memorable, depending on the people they meet there. Potential outcomes could range anywhere from a best friend to a future soul-mate.

Student activities could spark interest in a multitude of things, be it in-between classes or once the textbooks have been closed shut for the day, put into their own coffin of schoolbags and neglected corners of a student's home or bookshelf. Students may find they have a love for free cotton candy or s'mores, or maybe that a free showing of an otherwise ignored movie is actually good.

Much in the same way, intramurals provide the chance to discover that one might be a dodgeball-playing superstar, or find that floor hockey is the biggest stress-reliever they have ever experienced.

By keeping a positive attitude towards the semester and its respective schoolwork, one might find an abundance of hidden joys buried within the rubble of papers and unfinished assignments. With those potentially hidden joys, gritting your teeth and bearing through the semester becomes that much easier, be it with a friend or simply with a pastime.

Who knows, the same positivity that helped you get through the semester may even help graduation-bound students survive the vomit-inducing process of finding a job. Consider it preparation for all those future endeavors of enduring an extra long day at a full-time job or the sleepless howls of a newborn baby. There is always a positive, you just have to find it.

Students with opinions on this or any other editorial are encouraged to e-mail us at chronicle@purduecal.edu.

COMMENTS?

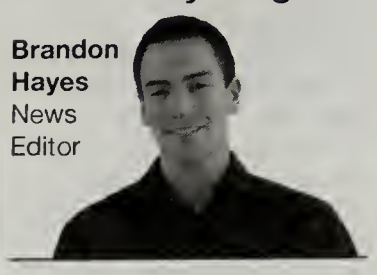
Write to us and see your thoughts in print!

The Chronicle Editorial Policy

The views expressed in submitted commentaries and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of The Chronicle or Purdue University Calumet. The Chronicle is not an official publication of Purdue University Calumet. The Chronicle welcomes reader input. Letters and commentaries must include the writers name, class standing or other affiliation and a telephone number for verification. The more concise the letter, the better chance of publication. All materials submitted to The Chronicle become the property of The Chronicle. The Chronicle reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, space and news style. Deadline for submissions is the Friday before the publication.

The customer is not always right

Brandon Hayes
News Editor



If you have ever worked in customer service, then you know that each day can bring you different types of questions and a never ending slew of interesting people.

Generally, most customers are kind and treat you with respect, but there are always a few people who you just can't seem to satisfy. During my time working in customer service at the many jobs I have held, I have always done my best to treat people with respect and resolve their problems, even when they clearly did not deserve it.

It is impossible to please everyone. I have witnessed people scream at the top of their lungs, throw tantrums, destroy property, hit other people and all but have a mental breakdown because things did not go their way. Well, I'm sorry to inform you, but that is the way life works. Nothing is more degrading to yourself than complaining and yelling at the people who are there to help you.

A few of the most common problems that I run into are people who call and have no idea what they want, who they are looking for or what they would like the attendant to do about their situations. People call and they are half asleep, drunk, mad at the world or attempting to talk over what sounds like a rock and roll concert in the background; it is just rude.

Because I am a caring individual, I have made up a few suggestions in customer service etiquette that will help make your service faster and our jobs much easier.

1. Know what you want before you ask for help.

Calling and simply asking for "John" or "that one lady," (yes, someone has actually asked me that) will get you nowhere fast. You should at least know the last name or department in which the person works for.

2. Do not use profanity and always ask nicely.

Just because you are frustrated is no excuse to swear at someone. Having a bad attitude and being rude right from the get go will only reduce the chances of getting the right answers.

3. Expect help, but not miracles.

Most people expect prompt answers to their questions, which is expected in a timely fashion, but that is not always possible. There are many issues behind the scenes that can delay a request. Understand that we cannot control the universe and are not wizards.

Life does not revolve around one person, nor does it always go as planned. This may sound like a rant to the world, but I am tired of seeing people be so inconsiderate and hostile towards others. In a world where everything seems to be going to hell in a hand-basket, the least we could do is treat people with respect and be patient with one another.

Readers can contact Brandon at chronicle_newseditor@yahoo.com or (219) 989-2547.

Keon

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in the new semester, with some new changes added.

Keon said that while his first semester went by very quickly, he hopes to have many more.

"After spending additional time with the campus, the second goal was expanded to 'learning through engagement and discovery,'" Keon said. "Because there are so many students involved with undergraduate research projects, it seemed important to refine this second goal to capture campus strength."

Keon has held focus groups with students, faculty, and staff to begin determining PUC's strengths and weaknesses, and, this coming semester, he says they should expand the input to the entire campus.

He hopes these strengths and weaknesses will then be sorted across the four goals and strategies to act upon building strengths and, next year, elimination of weaknesses will take place.

"This will evolve into our strategic plan that will have academic excellence as the core component," Keon said.

This semester, Keon said he is also going to continue with the concept of PUC becoming a hometown university.

"There are many projects with the community and with businesses that we are expanding to insure that everyone knows PUC is NWI's hometown university.

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Advancement/University Relations Wes Lukoshus said, "Chancellor Keon's vision of Purdue Calumet as a hometown university relates to all we contribute and the impact of those contributions in advancing Northwest Indiana."

Photo: Jessica Calhoun

Chancellor Keon hopes to make PUC a hometown university.

Lukoshus continued, "Through academic excellence, engaged learning and discovery, inclusivity, and community and business partnerships... we look forward to enriching, expanding and advancing valuable Purdue Calumet qualities that are vital to Northwest Indiana."

Keon said that another one of his new plans for the semester is to review the student enrollment management process with the goal of increasing admissions in the future.

"Administrative Services is continually seeking ways to improve the appearance and functionality of the campus, as well as the services we provide to the campus community," Vice Chancellor of Administrative Services Ken Johnston said. "We look forward to working with Enrollment Management to identify specific actions we can take to increase both the number and quality of students attending Purdue Calumet."

Healthcare

continued from page 1

for smokers may become a pattern in the future.

Bob Anderson, a junior broadcasting major, responded strongly to news of the increase. Since he has been making strides toward quitting smoking since the fall semester, Anderson said that an increased health care rate would be a great help to his current efforts to quit. He also added that "it's bad enough I get taxed for cigarettes ... then just to get taxed again by my employer."

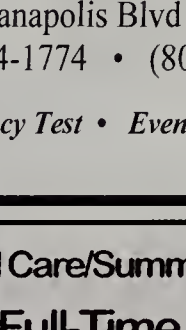
PUC, however, is not alone in their efforts to encourage employees to quit smoking by raising rates. According to MSNBC, the decision to raise insurance premiums for tobacco users to control costs for health care is a choice that organizations, such as Meijer Inc. and PepsiCo Inc., began making years ago. While many will take this as extra encouragement to quit smoking, it will undoubtedly cause tension between staff and administration.

Microsoft

continued from page 1

creasing functions and features of programs."

Cervone said Microsoft offers the same agreement to other universities across the country, and there is little room for negotiation.



As stated in an email sent to the campus community from Joe Morales, after the current license runs out in June, students are to destroy any of the previous products they may have purchased and buy copies of the new Microsoft Select products in the bookstore to replace them. Cervone added that these regulations come from Microsoft, not Purdue.

"According to the license that students who purchased products agreed to, you are to stop using them. Students, like most people, probably didn't read the fine print that said the products are for school-related purposes only. These products [under the new license] are offered on a perpetual license. This means that students can technically use them until they die," Cervone said.

When it comes to enforcement of this rule, Cervone said it is up to Microsoft. The activation codes built into the products do "phone home" periodically, so if this happens products could be deactivated. However, Cervone pointed out that Microsoft does not have a master list of the names of every student who is using Microsoft products.

"These negotiations happen every time the contract runs out. It is a normal occurrence," Cervone said.

Pregnant? Need Help?

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Information Services at Purdue University Calumet

Announcement: Our Domain Name Is Changing

Purdue University Calumet is in the process of changing its domain name from *calumet.purdue.edu* to *purduecal.edu*. Here are some of the reasons why we are doing this. Our current *calumet.purdue.edu* domain does not adequately distinguish our campus from Purdue West Lafayette. The shorter domain name will be more convenient when attempting to access the Purdue University Calumet website and improve our Web and search presence. The estimated completion date for the changeover is currently fall 2011.

What does this mean for you, the student?

- **Access to websites with the *calumet.purdue.edu* domain will not be impacted by this change until the final cutover date this fall, which has yet to be determined. Desktop shortcuts, favorites and bookmarks should not be impacted by this change until the final cutover date. This date will be communicated to campus as soon as it is determined.**
- **Email sent to an old email address that has been converted to the new *purduecal.edu* domain should continue to deliver without incident until the final cutover date this fall.**
- **Your student email address will not be impacted by this change. With the conversion to Gmail, student email addresses have already been converted to the new *purduecal.edu* domain (example student email address: John.Doe@purduecal.edu)**

Need help or have questions?

During the transition, if you are experiencing difficulty emailing your instructor, accessing a website with the *calumet.purdue.edu* domain or have questions concerning the domain change, please email the Customer Service Center: csc@purduecal.edu

webs.calumet.purdue.edu/infosvcs

Your feedback on our services is always welcome. Please send your comments to Customer Service Center at csc@purduecal.edu

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1/3-mile north of Interstate 80/94, three blocks east of Indianapolis Blvd. to campus and south at the traffic light into the south parking lot.

'The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword' raises the bar

Brandon Hayes
News Editor

★★★★½

Ready a sword and take aim towards the heavens, it is once again time to embark on a magical journey chasing Princess Zelda through a world of mystery and danger. Perhaps one of the most anticipated video games to come out of 2011, besides those involving endless warzones and dragon slaying, was Nintendo Wii's "The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword."

The story begins in Skyloft, where an ancient goddess placed humans in a perfect community to keep them safe from the evil of the lands below. The series protagonist, Link, comes into play when he must compete in the Wing Ceremony, a race where humans ride birds called Lofwings, and the winner becomes a knight. After Link wins the race, Zelda is lost during a storm and ends up in Hyrule, the mysterious land below. Evil is inevitably awakened and, just as in previous iterations, Link must find his true love Zelda and save her and the rest of the land from evil beings who want to destroy all that is good in the world.

On this journey, Link is given the Goddess Sword and is guided by a mythical companion called Fi, who is a reincarnation of the goddess, Hylia. Fi acts as a navigation system and protector, guiding Link toward locating Zelda. He must trudge through forests and dungeons battling mysterious creatures and discovering the wonders of Hyrule.

zeldainformer.com

"Skyward Sword," the latest game in the "Legend of Zelda" series tells the history of the Master Sword.

"Skyward Sword," the 16th game of "The Legend of Zelda" series, introduces a new level of gameplay by using real-life sword action game play. Players can control the sword with the help of the Wii Remote Plus and Nunchuk remote. Improved combat controls, impressive graphics and an amazing storyline are just a few of the reasons to love this edition of the "Zelda" series. One feature that stands out in particular during fighting is the Skyward Strike. By pointing the Goddess Sword towards the sky, your sword is energized with magic, making for a powerful sword attack.

As in previous Zelda games, the music accompanying the storyline is quiet and melodic, and this time the game pack includes a separate disc with a 25th Anniversary Symphony "Legend of Zelda" Special Orchestra. Additionally, in a special edition pack, the game comes with a Golden Zelda Wii Remote.

"Skyward Sword" is quite possibly the best Zelda release yet, next to its classic predecessor, Nintendo 64's "The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time." Overall, it is yet another great adventure to be had on a snowy winter day.

'El Camino' hits the ground *running*

Jeff Scott
Entertainment Writer

★★★★★

The Black Keys started their retro-soul/hard blues/rock 'n' roll journey ten years ago. Seven albums, three Grammy awards and a strong fanbase later, the band continues to stun listeners. The Black Keys newest album, "El Camino" (Spanish for "The Road"), finds the band shedding some of their blues background and heading for more of a straight-on rock 'n' roll approach, and the result is spectacular.

Originally from Akron, Ohio and recently relocated to Nashville, Tenn., the Black Keys are a two man unit – featuring Dan Auerbach on guitar and lead vocals and Patrick Carney on drums. On "El Camino," the duo has reunited with Danger Mouse (Brian Burton), the producer their 2008 album "Attack and Release." This time around, Burton almost seems like an unofficial third band member. He co-produced and co-wrote the songs with Auerbach and Carney and plays keyboards

See Camino page 6

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www.purduecal.edu/studentactivities

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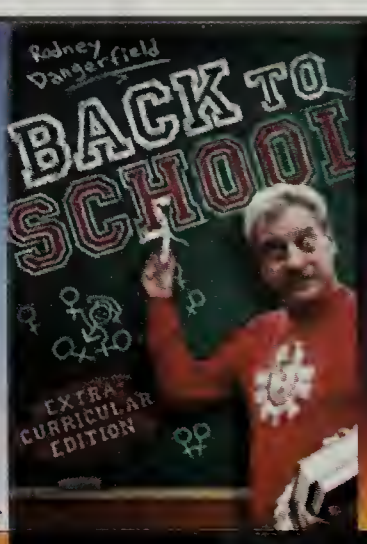

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11am, 1pm & 3pm
Free

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Thursday, Jan. 19
11am-2pm; SUL Concourse
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4:00-5:00pm: Free Food & Activities
- Design Your Own T-Shirt
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5:45pm: Halftime Group Competitions
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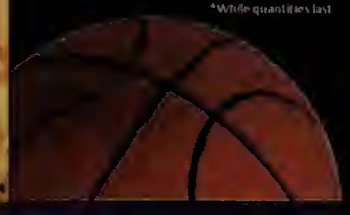
- Tug of War, Pie Eating & more

6:30pm: Dessert Bar
7:00pm: Men's Game vs. Robert Morris
7:45pm: Halftime Awards
*While quantities last



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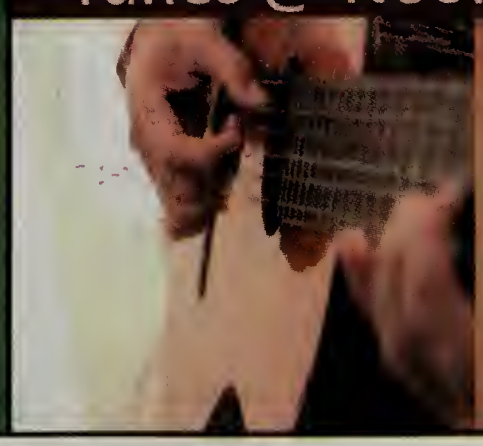

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Sponsored by Student Activities

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Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Sequels

Kayla Greenwell
Staff Writer

freemovieposters.net

★★★★½

There are always going to be differences between a book and its film adaptation, just like there are always going to be drunken people at sporting events. These are facts written in the proverbial rulebook of life. "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" is no exception to that rule. However, the film takes a step off the beaten path in the differences between the first movie and the sequel.

The first film was more about Robert Downey, Jr. running around fighting people and blinking a lot. The mystery was only solved in the last three minutes of the film, leaving any true Arthur Doyle mystery lovers with a deep *sense of disappointment.*

"A Game of Shadows" improved a lot on that aspect of the film, though. This mostly had to do with a story line that called for much more character development. Not only is Sherlock Holmes solving one of the most complicated mysteries of his career, but he has finally come face to face with his nemesis, Professor James Moriarty.

Because the movie was much more focused on the characters, the actors were allowed to delve deeper into their roles, for the benefit of the viewers as well as the actors.

Noomi Rapace, known for her lead role in the Swedish version of "Girl With the Dragon Tattoo," plays Madame Sizma Heron, a gypsy fortune-teller who Holmes meets during Watson's poorly-planned bachelor party. Rapace completely throws herself into the role and easily handles the screen with Downey, Jr. and Jude Law. She embodies a strong female character, but gives the audience a break from the romantic escapades of Holmes and Irene Adler (Rachel McAdams).

Another surprise was Stephen Fry as Mycroft, Sherlock's older brother. He takes on most of the comic relief since Sherlock grows more serious in this film than the last.

And where Stephen Fry was the comedic relief, Jared Harris as Moriarty is one of the more believable spine-tingling villains since the late Heath Ledger's Joker. He played an incredibly-intelligent, evil character without going over the top.

The cinematography, as in the first film, is also well done. Sherlock travelled all over Europe chasing his mystery, and the film really showcases the beauty of the country. Many prominent tourist attractions in the cities of Europe are featured, which really creates an atmosphere the audience can throw themselves into. There are still a few of the slow motion precognitive "how Sherlock is going to win this fight" scenes, and, with the exception of one long and drawn out fight scene, the pacing is perfect.

The creators of "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" stepped up their game and shows that Sir Conan Arthur Doyle's story should be taken seriously, instead of being played out as one of Hollywood's thoughtless blockbusters. The creators realized that they are not only trying to improve upon their first film, but also competing against the award winning BBC television show, "Sherlock," which is set in modern times.

With the success of the television show, sporting a mostly serious cast who rely on clever writing for humor, "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" had big shoes to fill in order to impress. And impress they did.

Rating System

★★★★★ ESSENTIAL
★★★★ EXCELLENT
★★★ AVERAGE
★★ POOR
★ AWFUL

Camino

continued from page 5

as well. Even though he influences the album, Burton wisely lets the Black Keys just be themselves throughout.

Auerbach's fuzz guitar is placed front and center, along with such sounds as female background vocals, handclaps, organs and synthesizers. The Black Keys also sound tighter, faster and more aggressive than they ever have before. The melodies are sharp, concise, and have plenty of irresistible hooks. The sound of "El Camino" is sort of like a cross between Led Zeppelin and the Ramones, with a modern day twist.

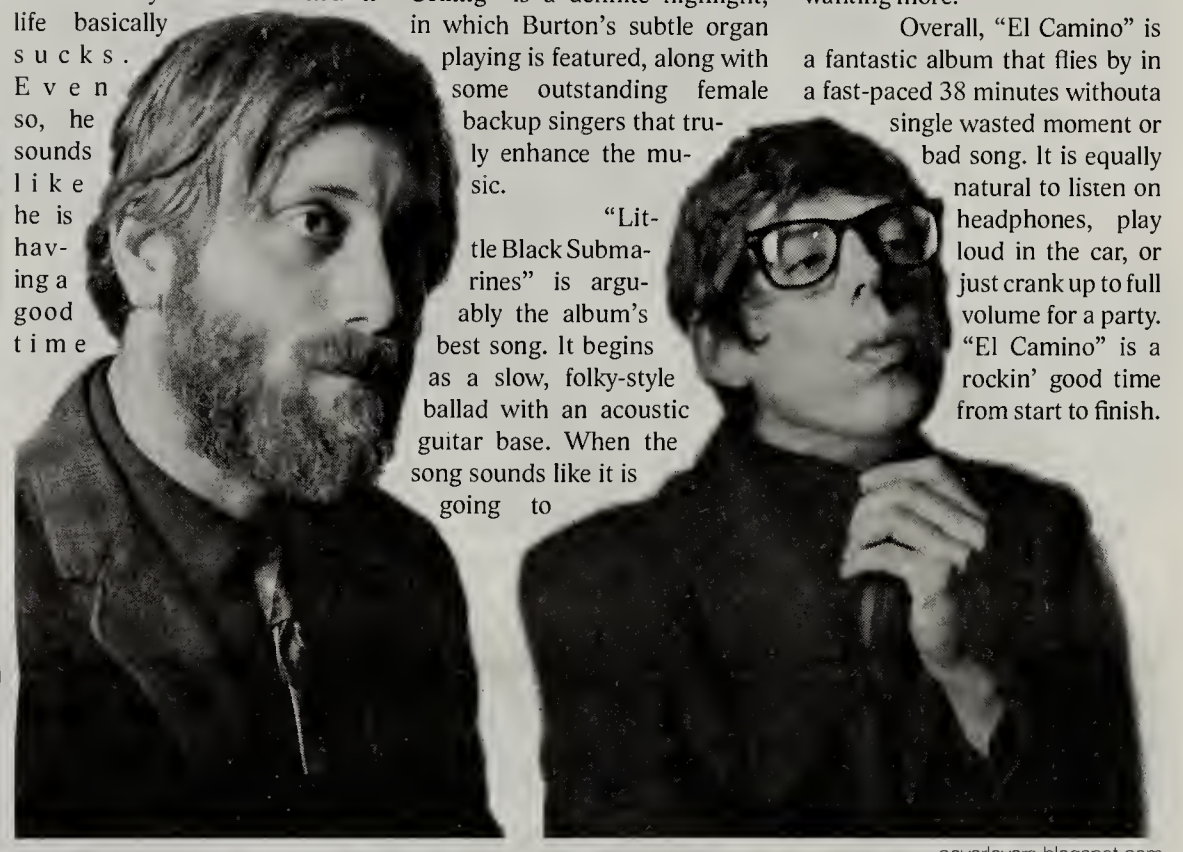
Auerbach sings about having problems with women, stolen money and how much life basically sucks. Even so, he sounds like he is having a good time through all the turmoil. His vocals are remarkable on every cut. Sometimes his voice sounds like a cross between a howl and an oversexed frat boy, but that seems to work for these types of songs. Carney sounds as if he is frequently banging the life out of his drum set, but in a good way. With Burton on keyboards, the band has a rich, full sound that makes it hard to believe there are only three members.

"Lonely Boy" is the lead-off track as well as the first single, and a terrific start to the album. The song features distorted guitars and clever-but-not-overbearing keyboard effects. The chorus is downright catchy. "Gold on the Ceiling" is a definite highlight, in which Burton's subtle organ playing is featured, along with some outstanding female backup singers that truly enhance the music.

"Little Black Submarines" is arguably the album's best song. It begins as a slow, folky-style ballad with an acoustic guitar base. When the song sounds like it is going to end, it suddenly shifts into psychedelic hard rock overdrive, with Auerbach playing frenetic guitar and Carney playing his drums like a man possessed. This song is designed to be played full blast.

Elsewhere, "Money Maker" is a song so enjoyable that the listener can actually forget that it is about a hooker; "Sister" has Carney's drumbeat taking center stage, with a counter melody that grooves like crazy; "Stop Stop" is the most similar to the retro-soul music the band is best known for; and finally, "Nova Baby" takes its influence from sixties era garage rock. The energy level in this song gradually builds in intensity until it explodes, leaving the listener wanting more.

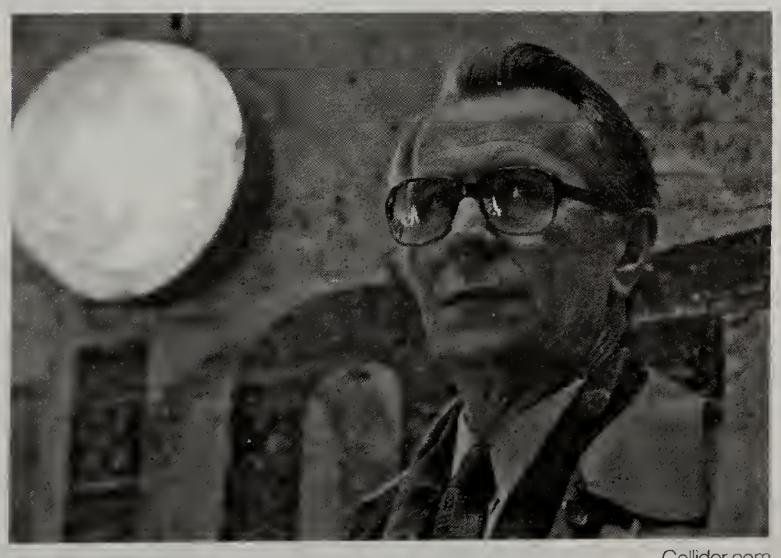
Overall, "El Camino" is a fantastic album that flies by in a fast-paced 38 minutes withouta single wasted moment or bad song. It is equally natural to listen on headphones, play loud in the car, or just crank up to full volume for a party. "El Camino" is a rockin' good time from start to finish.



coverlovers.blogspot.com

"El Camino" by The Black Keys, Dan Auerbach (left) and Patrick Carney (right), hit number 2 on the Billboard 200 charts.

A thinking man's thriller



Collider.com

Gary Oldman won Best Actor at the San Francisco Film Critics Circle Awards for his role in "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy."

Bill Koester
Sports Editor

★★★★½

Most spy films never seem to capture the real world of espionage. The reason is that most of them – like the James Bond, Bourne, and "Mission: Impossible" series – are not really spy pictures; they are action movies. Their storylines might be a little more intelligent than the average shoot-'em-up fare, but the action scenes are what people come to see.

"Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy" is not an action film posing as a spy thriller. This one is an espionage movie through and through, expertly capturing the world of Cold War era counterintelligence.

It is a dark and gloomy world. There are no explosions or car chases in exotic locales, just clandestine meetings and sleuthing in back alleys. When there is violence, it is not flashy or pretty, and who stands on which side is not clearly drawn out across standard movie lines.

The movie, based on the 1974 novel of the same name by John le Carré, begins in the early 1970s, with British agency MI6 (informally referred to onscreen as "the Circus") conducting an operation to take in a Soviet defector. When the mission goes awry, however, the Circus higher-ups believe that there is a mole in their ranks.

That really is too simplistic a synopsis, as the story is much more complicated than that. It is difficult at times to keep track of all the characters, let alone which side they are on, and there are some long stretches where it is hard to tell exactly what is going on.

But this is what makes the film so captivating. The movie forces the audience to think and figure out the complex puzzle of the story themselves. Doing so is a lot more engrossing than just being spoon-fed every plot point and twist like most thrillers do.

There is a relative lack of action in the picture, but it is never boring because it requires constant brainpower to follow. And instead of a traditional dénouement that neatly explains and wraps up every loose end, the film just sort of ends, leaving the viewer thinking more about the complex puzzle they just saw. This sounds infuriating, but in an odd way, it is incredibly satisfying; once viewers think everything is figured out, they want to watch again to see it in another light.

The story is brilliant, but what really makes the movie is the cast, a virtual "who's who" of the best Brits in the business. Gary Oldman, John Hurt, Colin Firth, Tom Hardy and Mark Strong are all very believable because they seem like real human beings. There are no suave, witty secret agents here, just real men in dangerous situations with little more than their wits about them.

There should be more movies made like "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy": movies that stimulate the mind instead of just pumping up teenagers' testosterone. Since such films are sadly few and far between, this movie seems all the more like a gem.

A rough winter break for men's basketball

Julie Sipek
Sports Writer

While many PUC students have spent their winter break catching up on sleep, the men's basketball team has been practicing and competing, as the winter season is in full swing.

The men got the chance to blow off some steam post-finals week in their game against Holy Cross on Dec. 17. Although the team led much of the way, they would eventually lose the match 83-77. Strong offensive efforts by sophomore Drew Ridlen and junior Andrew Anderson were not enough to combat PUC's inability to hold onto the ball, which resulted in 18 points in turnovers and 14 in fast breaks for the Saints.

Two days later, PUC would also suffer defeat at the hands of Olivet Nazarene University by a score of 74-69. The men's team would capitalize on 26 Tiger turnovers, but it, once again, was not enough to notch the victory. Ridlen and Anderson led PUC offensively for the second game in a row with 17 and 16 points respectively. Junior Kedric Williams also added 12 points and eight rebounds.

While a three game losing streak is sure to shake up a team's mentality, junior Trent Tucker said that the men are ultimately in control of their own destiny.

"It keeps us positive knowing that every game we play we have an opportunity to win if we play the way we are capable of playing," Tucker said.

The men would need this positivity, as they would suffer another loss, this time to NCAA Division II Tiffin University on New Year's Eve. Despite a solid first half performance by PUC, the Tiffin Dragons pulled out the 84-74 victory.

Next up for the Black and Gold was CCAC leader Cardinal Stritch University on Jan. 4. This first game of 2012 was reminiscent of last year's losses, where the competition exemplified superior offensive power and ran away with the victory. The Wolves won by a score of 81-63.

PUC was finally able to break the streak when they beat Trinity International University on Jan. 7, 80-70. This time the team was able to carry their first-half success all the way through to the final buzzer.

While TIU made several attempts to catch up, PUC continued with its offensive pressure, which led them to a convincing victory. Williams boasted a career-high 29 points while Anderson put up his fourth double-double of the season.

The men's team wrapped up winter break with a home contest against Trinity Christian College on Jan. 11. Despite a strong first half and an equally strong comeback attempt, PUC would lose the game in the final seconds, 75-70.

"We lost a close one," Anderson said.

Although the men have had a rough winter break, they are keeping their heads up for the rest of the season.

"The conference is still wide open behind Cardinal Stritch," Tucker said. "So if we can string a couple of wins together we will be right back in the mix."

Photo: Nathyn Gibson

Kedric Williams scores a point during PUC's game against Trinity Christian on Dec. 17.

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Plank

continued from page 8

for his association with the 46 defense, he was not around when the scheme reached its zenith in the Bears' historic 1985 season, when the team won Super Bowl XX.

"It would have been nice to have been associated with this Super Bowl team, although I realize physically I really had just come to the end of my road," Plank said. "I didn't have three more years in me to go out there and get more concussions, more separations, more body parts getting damaged."

The 46 Defense is still used today, notably under Rex Ryan, the son of Buddy Ryan and the head coach Plank served under with the Jets. Plank takes pride in being remembered for something so enduring in the game of football.

"Even though Doug Plank did not participate in the Super Bowl, the 46 defense did, and that is going to live longer, I believe, than one team winning the Super Bowl," Plank said.

Being known for his hard-hitting play on the field, Plank spoke his mind on the NFL's increased emphasis on player safety in recent years. He feels he would not have been the same player under the league's current rules regarding vicious hits.

"They would have prohibited Doug Plank from ever getting to the NFL, maybe even college," he said. "Think about the nature of football. A player is running with the ball, or he's catching the ball, and your job is to hit him and knock him off his feet on the ground. How soft and kind does that sound? It doesn't. You're going to try to do it as violently as you possibly can. At least up until these rule changes started taking place.

"You can't turn football into something it isn't. It's a physical, tough sport. And the choice is, do you want to play it or not?"

Such hard play has taken a toll on Plank's body. He has had joint replacements on both shoulders and one knee, and will have to have his other knee and both hips replaced in the coming years (he joked that he is "going for the triple double"). Still, he has no regrets of his experiences as a player.

"I was not a victim, I was a participant," Plank said. "The injuries, the collisions I got involved in, they were my choices.

"I wish I could have played longer, that's about the only thing I wish I could have done differently."

Plank also stated that even after more than 25 years, Chicago's enthusiasm for the 1985 Bears is unlikely to go anywhere, at least not until the franchise wins another Super Bowl.

"When I came to the Chicago Bears in 1975...I heard "63, '63, '63!'" Plank remembered, referring the team's 1963 NFL Championship season, their last title before Super Bowl XX. "That's just the way business is. Until you redo it again, until you go back to a championship, you're going to hear about those same teams year after year after year."

Women's

continued from page 8

The win brought the women's overall record to 14 wins and only 7 losses. For the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference they are 3-1.

The next game for the team was an away game on Jan. 14 at Calumet St. Joseph. The St. Joseph Crimson wave posted a record of 2 wins and 17 losses.

"If we play to our potential we have a chance to win." Megyesi said before the game game.

The coach's confidence was rewarded, as PUC won easily by a score of 76-56, bringing their wins up to 15.

The women return home to play Robert Morris on Jan. 19.

PUC women start the new year off right

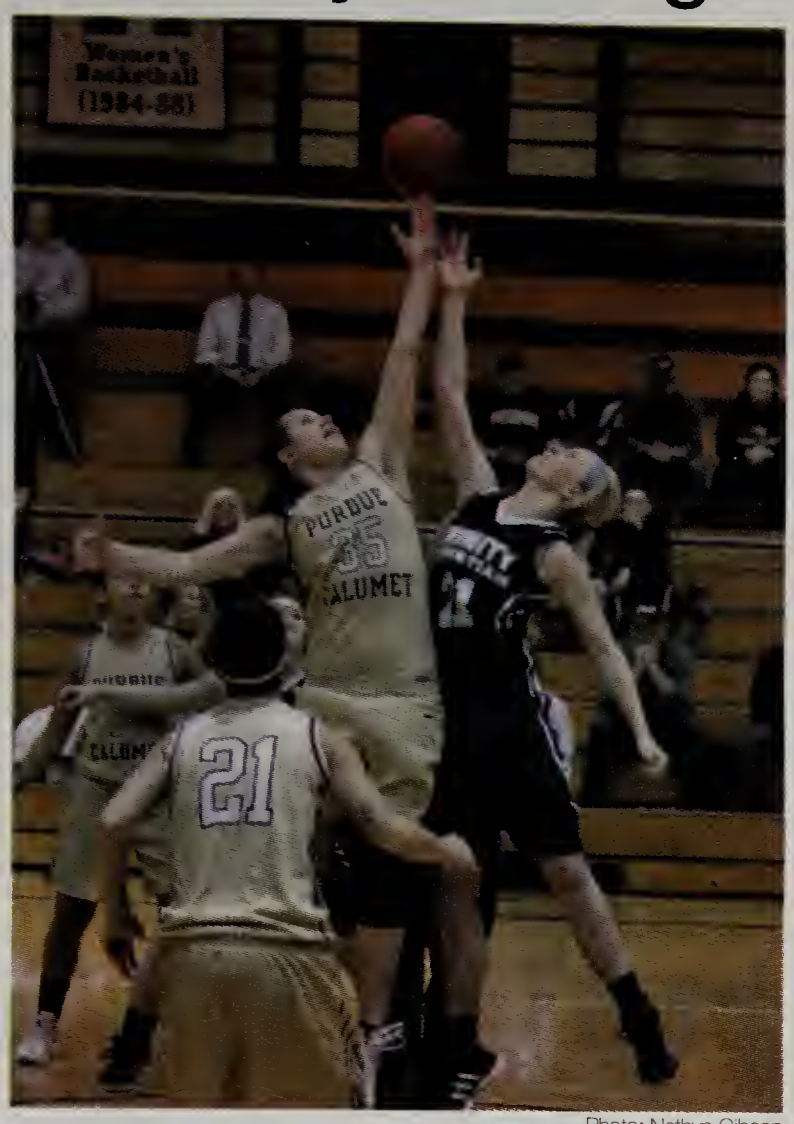

Photo: Nathyn Gibson

Lindsey Whitcomb attempts to get possession of the ball in the beginning of PUC's game against Trinity Christian.

Michelle Calhoun
Sports Writer

On Jan. 11, the PUC women's basketball team closed out their third game of the new year with a happy ending. They went up against the Trinity Christian Trolls and defeated them with the final scoreboard ending 82-49.

Head Coach Tom Megyesi was glad of their efforts throughout the entire game.

"Our set plays were executed well and we took good shots," Megyesi said. "I was pleased with our team's performance."

Key players for the game were sophomore guard Brooklyn Short, freshman guard Kami Graber and junior center Lindsey Whitcomb. Short led the team in overall points with a total of 17 points under her belt. Short was also honored by being named Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference player of the week.

Graber made her presence known as well, not only in shooting 14 points, but accruing four assists throughout the game. *Whitcomb dropped in 12 points* for the women, as well as blocking several shots.

Junior forward/center Amanda Gaskin and sophomore forward Madison Gervais managed to get 8 points on the board a well.

Throughout the entire game, PUC maintained their lead and kept a steady flow of points throughout the game. By halftime the women were safely in the lead with the score at 38-20.

The team managed to show the Trolls just how good their offense was in the second half. Within the first 5 minutes of the second half the team went on a powerful run, pulling away to a larger lead of 51-24. The Trolls made it a best effort, but by the end of the game they racked up only 25 more points, not even coming close to PUC's final score of 82.

See Women's page 7

Former Bears "Hit Man" visits Region

Bill Koester
Sports Editor

GARY OLD TIMERS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
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Photo: Gary Old Times Athletic Association

Even nearly three decades after his retirement from professional football, former Chicago Bear Doug Plank is still revered among Bears fans. On Jan. 11, fans from the Region got to see the local legend up close, but without becoming the victim of one of his powerful tackles.

Plank was the guest speaker at the Gary Old Timers Athletic Association's annual banquet on Jan. 11. Over 800 guests packed Avalon Manor in Hobart for the event.

Plank played football at Ohio State University before being drafted by Chicago in 1975, where he played at safety for eight seasons. He and teammate Gary Fencik were dubbed "the Hit Men" for their devastating hits on opponents.

In his speech, Plank reminisced about his childhood in Pennsylvania, his years at Ohio State under legendary coach Woody Hayes, and his time with the Bears, speaking highly of then-defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan. He also talked about his life after playing, which included stints as a broadcaster and a coach in both the Arena Football League and with the NFL's New York Jets in 2009.

Plank is known in football circles as the inspiration behind the famous "46 Defense," which was named after his jersey number. Though many players would consider it an honor to have a scheme named for them, Plank and his teammates did not see it as much of an achievement at first.

"[Ryan] referred to nobody by Xs or Os, or name," Plank recalled. "It was always your number. All these numbers were up on this board, and he went through and described what each of us was going to do. And at the end of that, Otis Wilson I believe asked 'What are you going to call this, Buddy?' And he said we're going to call this the 46 Defense.

"No one came over to me and clapped me or patted me on the back because Buddy was putting in coverages, defenses, blitzes, all the time, and almost every person on our team had a blitz coverage or front named after them, so this 46 was like no big deal. Now there would be guys who would kill to have that defense."

Planks career ended in 1982 when he suffered a spinal concussion. Despite being known

See Plank page 7

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